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### University considers new option for physical plant management

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

December 2, 1987

### UNIVERSITY CONSIDERS NEW OPTION FOR PHYSICAL PLANT MANAGEMENT

MISSOULA --

The university has decided to expand its search for a new physical plant director to include proposals from private management companies, according to UM Fiscal Vice President Glen Williams.

Williams said that this is an option he has been considering since the start of the search for a new director in late September.

"I've completed my preliminary research, and I've decided that the potential benefits are great enough for us to go on to the next step, which is to request proposals from several companies," said Williams.

He emphasized that he was seeking proposals for management services only and that physical plant work would continue to be done by UM employees.

According to Williams the biggest apparent advantage to contracting with a management company is that the University would have access to a company's full range of expertise. He said that even a very strong individual applicant for the director's position would be unlikely to have experience in more than a few areas, while a resident manager provided by a company

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would be able to call on the company for advice and consulting help with special problems.

Nevertheless, Williams said that the search for a director, now underway, would continue as planned.

"I see the two processes as parallel and independent," said Williams. "When they are both completed I'm going to evaluate our options and make a recommendation to the president about the best direction for the university."

The search for a physical plant director, directed by Director of Internal Control Sylvia Weisenberger, resulted in 47 applicants. The search committee has narrowed that group to 10.

Weisenburger said she doesn't expect any further developments in the search until after the first of the year. She also said that she is satisfied with the quality of the applicants remaining in the pool.

"Based on what we know about them at this point, the group getting further consideration looks capable of administering a physical plant operation with the size and scope of ours," said Weisenburger.

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